

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 75

BY SENATOR CLOUD AND REPRESENTATIVE OWEN

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To direct the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism to conduct a study, in consultation with the board of directors of the Louisiana State Museum and the National WWII Museum, on the feasibility of establishing a museum and trail dedicated to the Louisiana Maneuvers, including potential locations, estimated costs, incorporation of conference space, and affiliation with the National WWII Museum, and to submit a written report of findings and recommendations.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Maneuvers were large-scale military exercises conducted in 1940 and 1941 across western and central Louisiana that involved over four hundred thousand troops and played a pivotal role in preparing the United States Armed Forces for World War II by testing strategies, equipment, and leadership which contributed to the Allied victory; and

WHEREAS, these maneuvers highlighted Louisiana's significant contribution to the nation's defense efforts, fostered economic growth in rural areas, influenced military doctrine, and left a lasting legacy on communities such as Alexandria, Leesville, Fort Polk, and the surrounding regions; and

WHEREAS, the preservation and commemoration of the history of the Louisiana Maneuvers through a dedicated museum and trail would educate future generations, honor veterans, promote tourism, and stimulate economic development in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, a Louisiana Maneuvers museum should incorporate modern facilities, including conference space, to host educational programs, veteran reunions, historical

conferences, and community events; and

WHEREAS, affiliation with the National WWII Museum in New Orleans would enhance credibility, provide access to national resources, artifacts, and expertise, and elevate the proposed museum to a nationally recognized institution.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby direct the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism to conduct a comprehensive study, in consultation with the board of directors of the Louisiana State Museum and the National WWII Museum, on the feasibility of establishing a museum and trail dedicated to the Louisiana Maneuvers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall include but not be limited to the following:

(1) Identification and evaluation of potential locations for the museum and trail, with consideration given to sites in central Louisiana near historical maneuver areas, such as Leesville, Alexandria, or Fort Polk, assessing factors including accessibility, land availability, proximity to existing historical sites, and potential for economic impact.

(2) Estimation of costs associated with planning, construction, operation, and maintenance of the museum, including initial capital expenditures, ongoing operational budgets, and potential funding sources such as state appropriations, federal grants, private donations, and partnerships.

(3) Recommendations for incorporating conference space within the museum design, including specifications for multipurpose venues capable of hosting events, seminars, and exhibitions, with estimates of associated costs and benefits.

(4) Analysis of requirements and processes for affiliating the proposed museum with the National WWII Museum, including any necessary amendments to the charter of the National WWII Museum to enable such affiliation, potential governance structures, shared resources, and benefits to historical preservation and public education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs and the Senate Committee on Education no later than March 1, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the lieutenant governor, the chair of the board of directors of the Louisiana State Museum, and the president and chief executive officer of the National WWII Museum.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES